GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3313
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2000
REVIEW OF IMPORT OF EDIBLE OILS
ANNA SAHEB M.K. PATIL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the position in regard to import of edible oils over the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the domestic refining and solvent extraction units have represented to the Government regarding continued reduction in the import duties leading to dumping of edible oil particularly from Malaysia and consequent massive sickness in the local units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along-with details of action taken/proposed in this regard and revival/modernisation of oil industry in terms of our requirements and global market trends?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The import of edible oils during the period 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(November, 99 - January, 2000) have been 12.83 lakh tonnes, 18.33 lakh tonnes, 35.06 lakh tonnes and 9.72 lakh tonnes respectively. In the Union Budget 1996-97, the import duty on edible oils was 22%. The duty was subsequently raised to 25% by imposition of surcharge of 3%. In order to curb high domestic prices, in July, 98, the import duty on edible oils was reduced to 15%. In the Union Budget 1999-2000, the import duty was raised to 16.5%. In order to curb import, with effect from 30.12.1999, the import duty on refined oil has been raised to 27.5%. Further, actual user condition has also been stipulated. The peak rate of 38.5% of duty is applicable for crude oils imported by other than actual users. In addition, a SAD @ 4% has also been levied.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details of action have already been indicated vide reply to (b). The measures taken are expected to help revival of the oil industry and also enable better returns to the farmer for his produce.